Machine Guns in the Urban Environment

Role of Machine Guns in Urban Battlespace

- Provide covering fire.
- Isolate an area.
- Provide high rate of fire on avenues of approach.
  - Fire along streets and into windows

Machine Gun Emplacement

- Secure all windows and doors in occupied building.
- Prepare to use loopholes.
- Put guns in building corners or sand bagged under building.
  - To increase fields of fire.
- Locate gun for grazing fire
  - may not always be possible.

Machine Gun Employment

- Urban targets have hard, smooth, flat surfaces.
- Engagement ranges in MOUT are close
  - 90% of targets w/i 50 meters
- Depression and elevation limits for some weapons create dead space.

Eight Principles of MG Employment

- Mutual Support
- Employ in Pairs
- Coordination of Fire
- Position in Defilade
- Enfilade Fire
- Interlocking Fire
- Cover and Concealment
- Economy of Fire

Penetration Power of MG Rounds

- At 50m, 7.62 can penetrate a layer of single layer of sandbags, but not a double.
- .50-Cal only slightly better
  - 14 inches of sand
  - 28 inches of packed earth
- Continued fire from both can penetrate most walls.

Summary

- High rate of fire covers and isolates urban objectives.
- Employment affected by:
  - Uniqueness of urban targets
  - Short ranges
  - Depression/elevation limits
- Penetration of rounds dictates types of targets to engage.